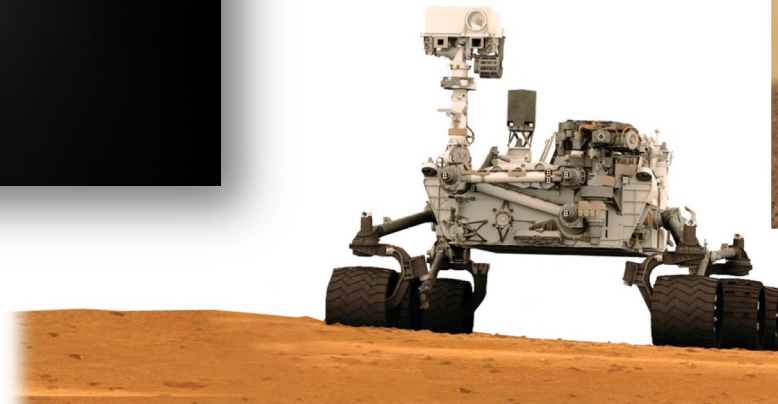
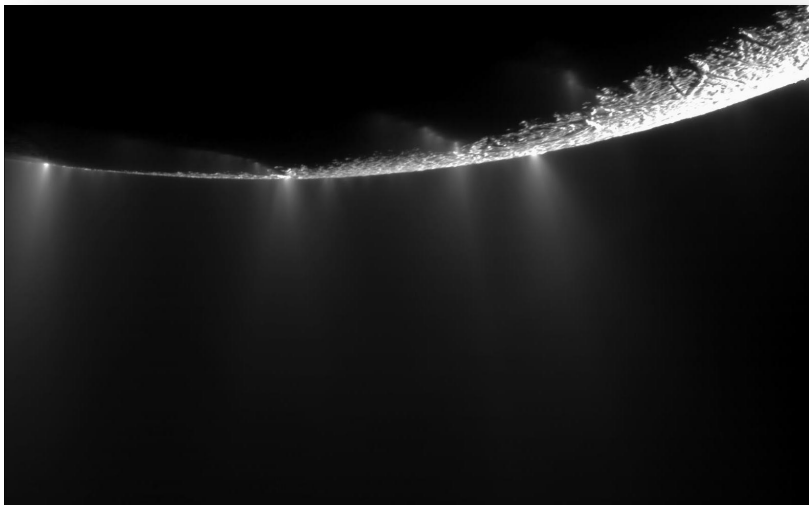


# Robotic Exploration of Space at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL)

Cinzia Zuffada  
JPL Associate Chief Scientist  
Science Fellow, US Embassy in Rome

XV Italian Planetary Science Conference  
Firenze, 4 February 2019

**JPL**  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
California Institute of Technology





# JPL is part of NASA and Caltech

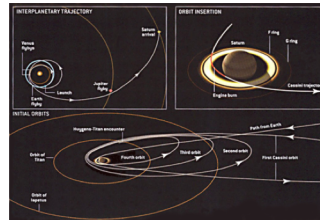


- Federally-funded (NASA-owned) Research and Development Center (FFRDC)
- University Operated (Caltech)
- \$2.3B Business Base
- 6,000 Employees
- 167 Acres (includes 12 acres leased for parking)
- 139 Buildings; 36 Trailers
- 673,000 Net Square Feet of Office Space
- 906,000 Net Square Feet of Non-Office Space (e.g., Labs)

# End-to-End JPL Capabilities Needed to Implement Missions



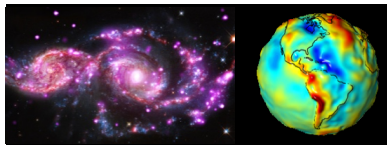
Project Formulation - Team X



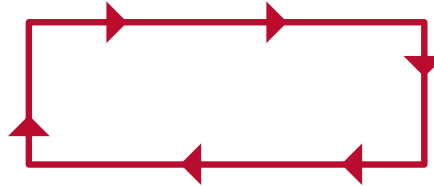
Mission Design



Mars Rovers



Scientific Research



Large Structures-SRTM



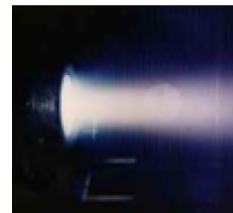
Real Time Operations



Environmental Test



Integration and Test



Spacecraft Development



# Active Spacecraft Across the Solar System and Beyond



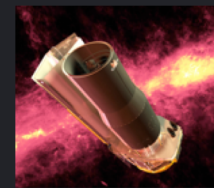
Two Voyagers (1977)



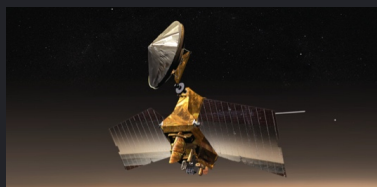
Mars Odyssey (2001)



Opportunity (2003)



Spitzer (2003)



Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (2005)



Dawn (2007)



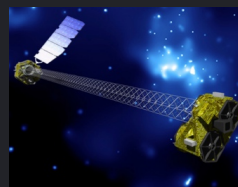
NEOWISE (2009)



Juno (2011)



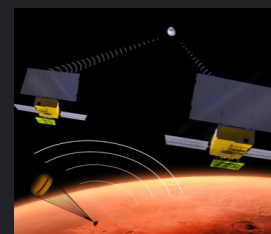
Curiosity (2011)



NuSTAR (2012)



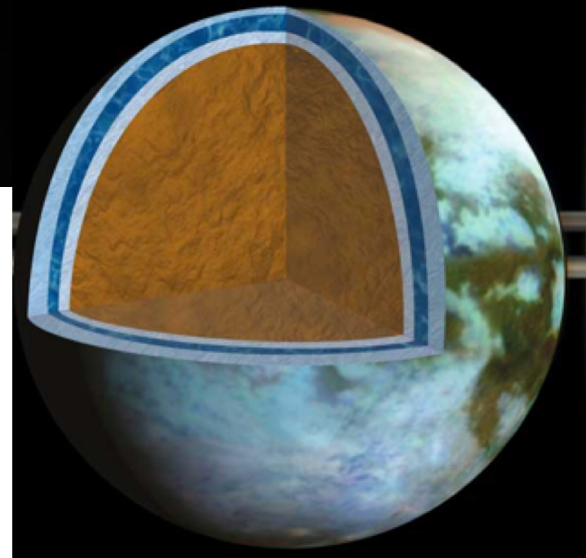
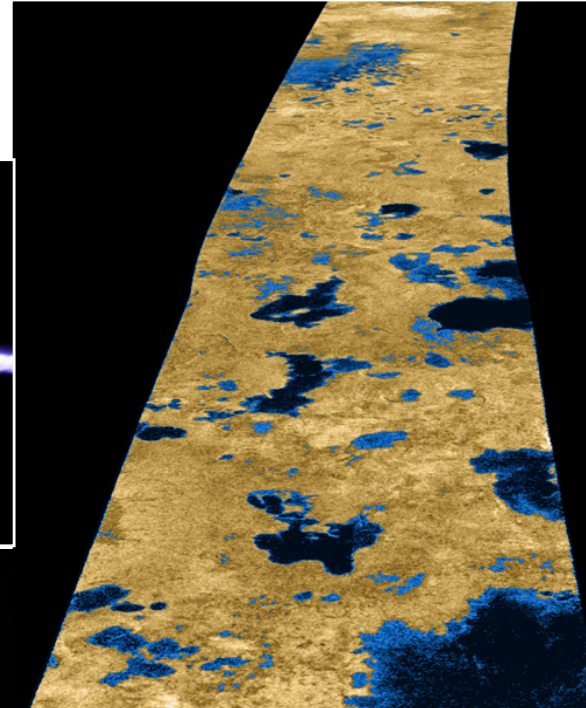
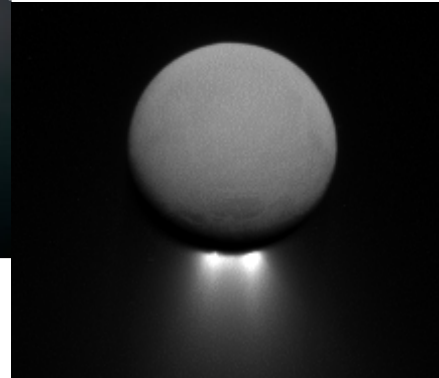
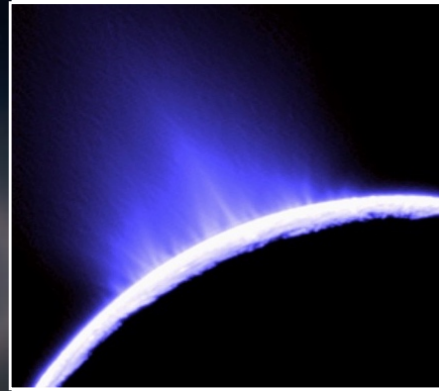
InSIGHT (2018)



MarCO



# Cassini/Huygens elucidates Saturn rings, Enceladus' geysers, and Titan's lakes and ocean



## **Strata at Base of Mt. Sharp**

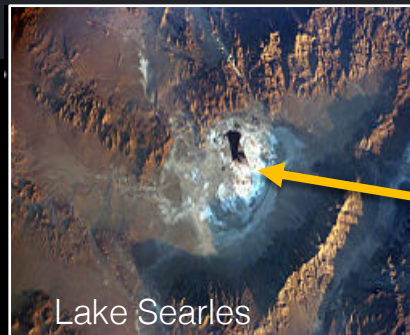
Indicates the flow of water before the mountain formed





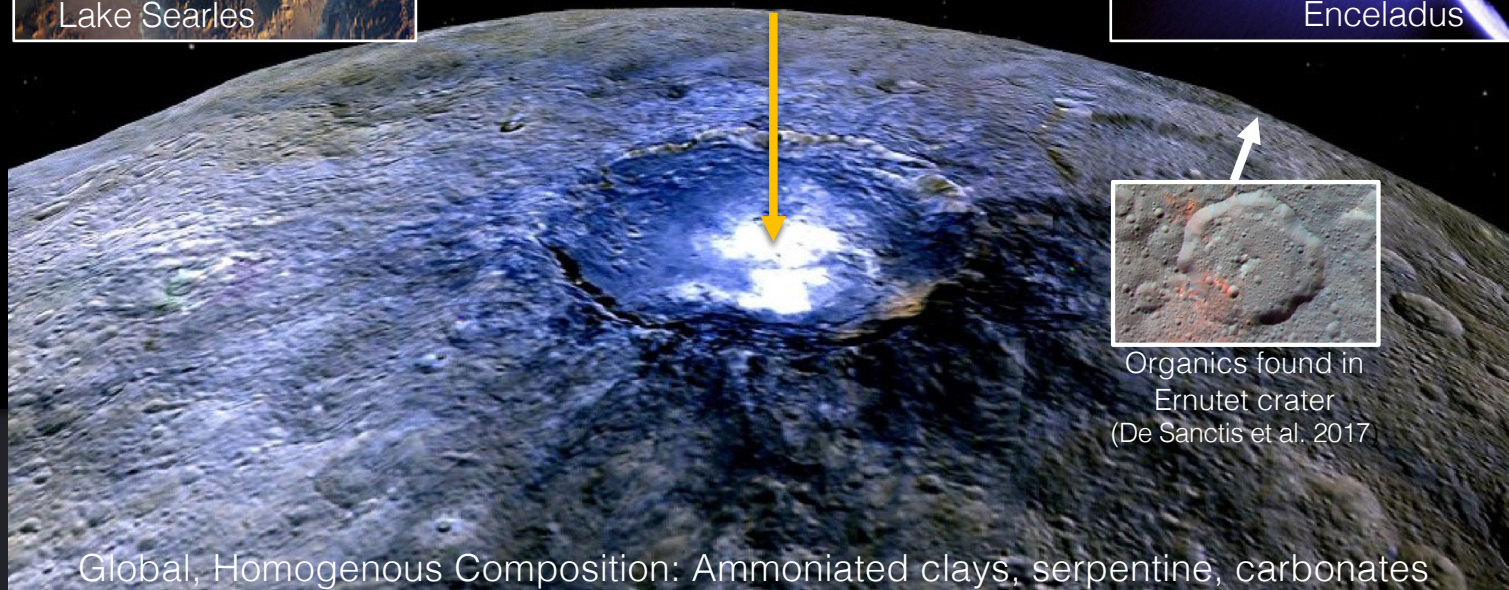
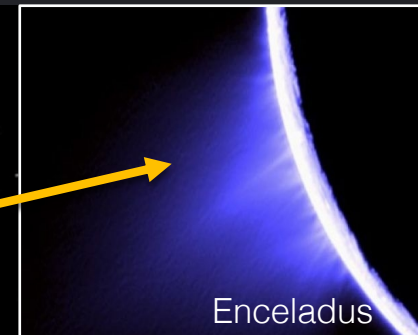
# Dawn revealed Ceres to be a chemically active world

10 Years Since Launch



Ceres' surface shows  
mineralogy found only on Earth  
and Enceladus, so far

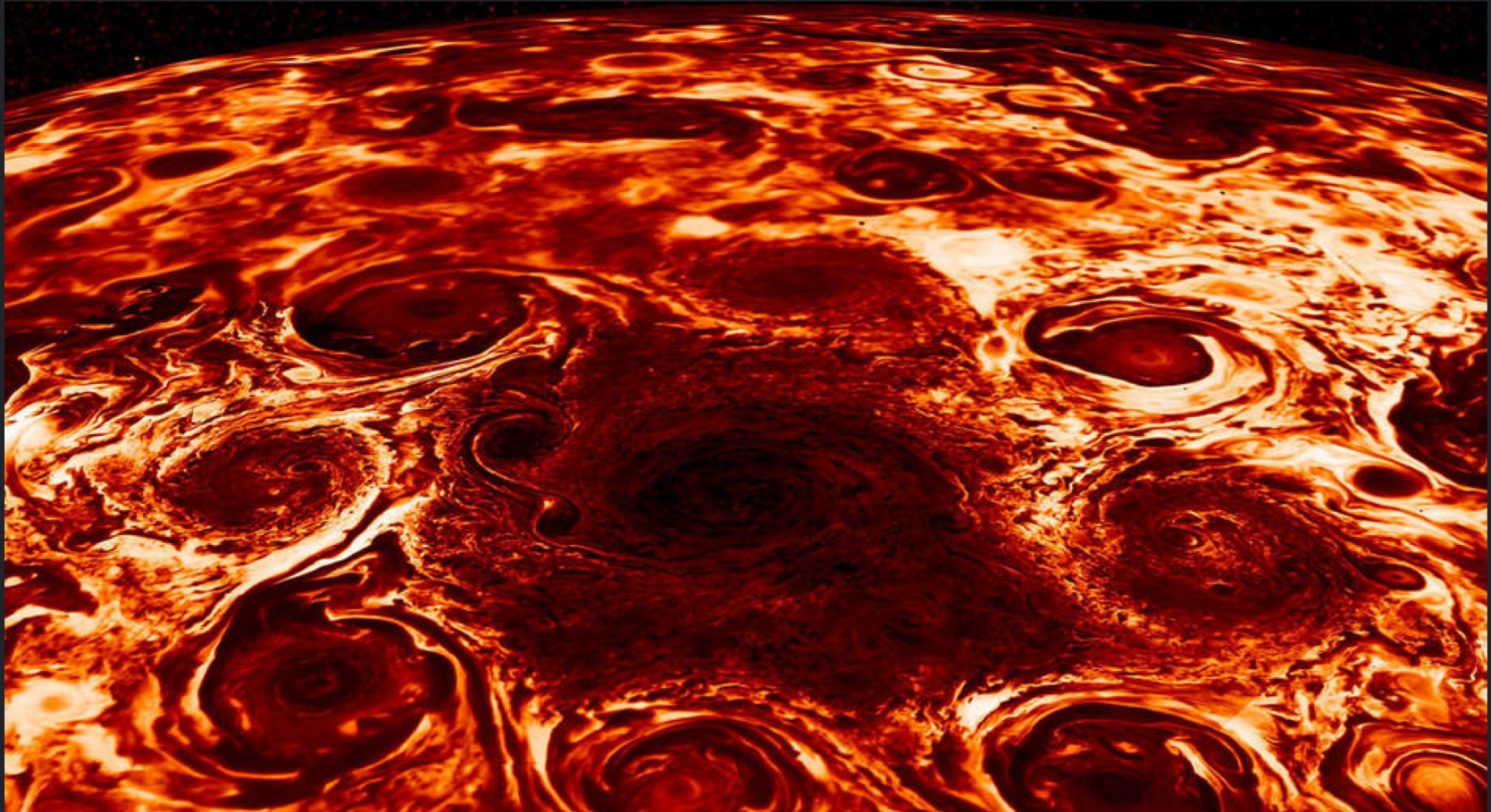
Sodium carbonates  
Ammonium Salts  
De Sanctis et al. (2016)





# JUNO Reveals Cyclones at Jupiter North Pole

Less than 2 years since Orbit Insertion





# **Decadal Surveys Set The Framework for Exploration**

Reports prepared by National Academy of Sciences at the request of Congress and NASA

10-year plans outlining scientific goals and missions representing input from scientists leaders in the field in Astrophysics, Planetary Science and Earth Science communities in the United States (and beyond)

Represent the official consensus on the top priority scientific goals, and the missions required to meet them

# **Planetary Science Analysis Groups are a Vehicle to Explore Collaboration**

Community based interdisciplinary forums for analysis in support of future exploration  
Findings of analyses are provided to NASA through the NASA Advisory Council

## **Curation and Analysis Planning Team for Extraterrestrial Materials (CAPTEM)**

## **Lunar Exploration Analysis Group (LEAG)**

## **Mars Exploration Analysis Group (MEPAG)**

## **Outer Planets Assessment Group (OPAG)**

## **Small Bodies Assessment Group (SBAG)**

## **Venus Exploration Analysis Group (VEXAG)**



# **SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE MARS EXPLORATION PROGRAM**

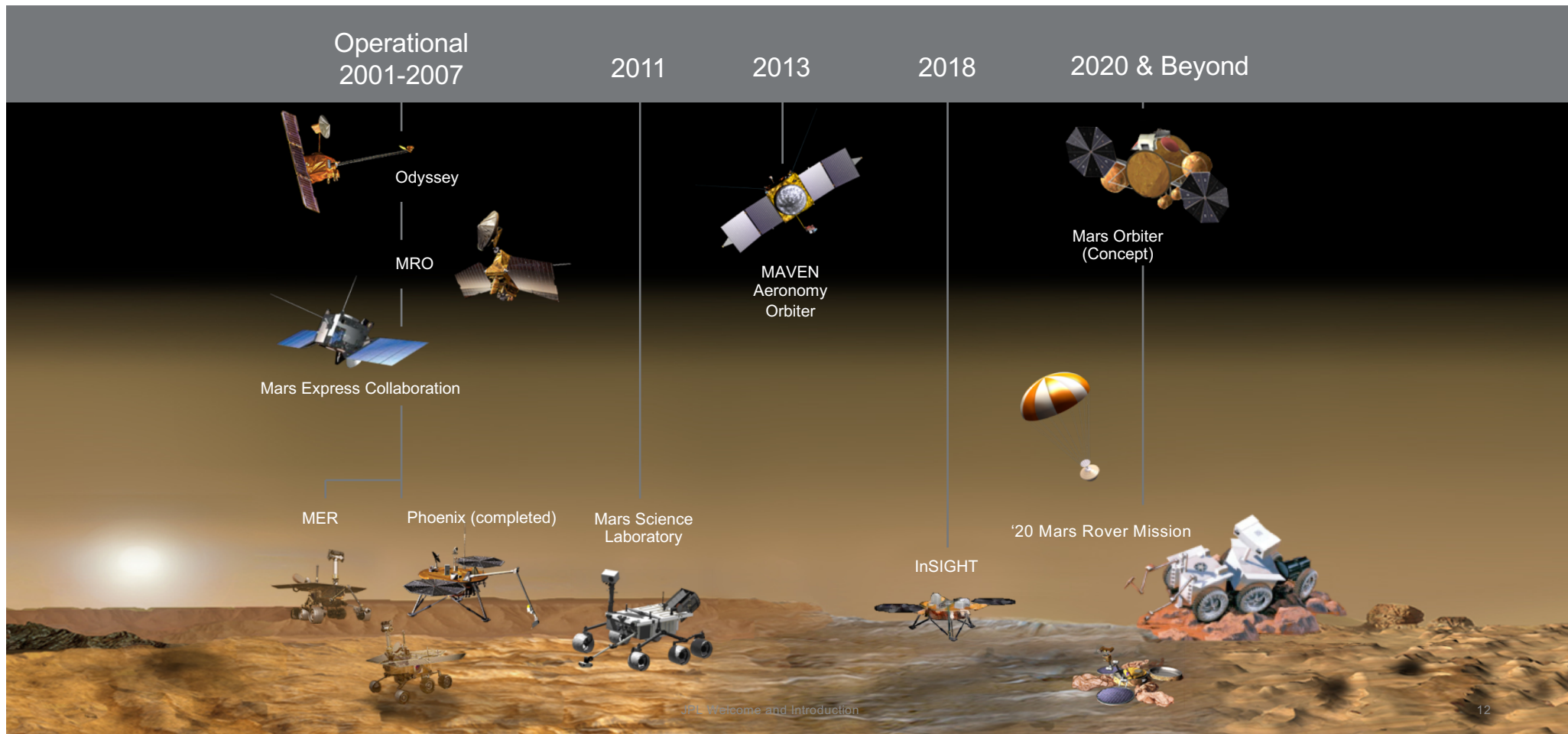
## **From Visions into Voyages for Planetary Science in the Decade 2013-2022: A Midterm Review (2018)**

“NASA has been exploring Mars for over 50 years. Mars is a high priority for scientific study because of its strong relevance to all of the science themes of *Vision and Voyages*, and because it is a destination for future human explorers.

MEP has made additional discoveries since *Vision and Voyages* that reinforce this high priority and pose important new science questions. Mars 2020 will take the important first step toward the highest science priority in *Vision and Voyages*, MSR, by collecting and caching carefully selected and well-documented samples.

The MEP currently lacks, and should promptly develop, a comprehensive plan, architecture, management and international partnering approach, and funding profile to implement the next steps in Mars exploration including and beyond completion of MSR.”

# Mars Exploration Program



Pre-Decisional Information -- For Planning and Discussion Purposes Only

# NASA International Collaborations

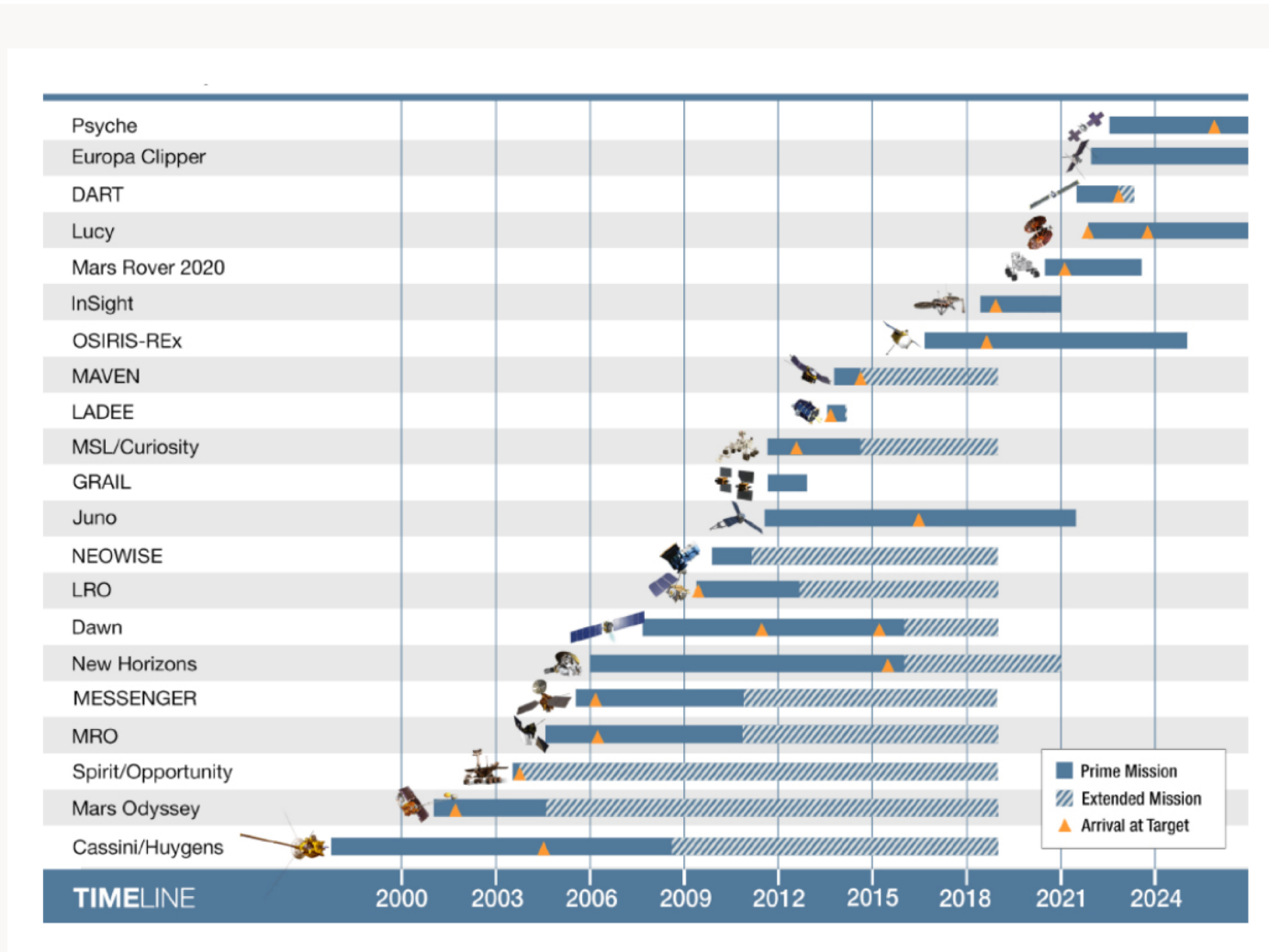


FIGURE S.1 Recent, current, and in-development NASA planetary science missions and international missions in which NASA is participating. SOURCE: Courtesy of NASA.



# STUDENTS/POSTDOCS OPPORTUNITIES AT JPL

## JPL Postdoctoral Scholars Program

Candidates respond to a specific advisor research  
AO, Funded by JPL PI

<http://postdocs.jpl.nasa.gov/>

## NASA Postdoctoral Program (NPP)

Candidates write research proposal in response to  
advisor AO, primarily funded by NASA's Science  
Mission Directorate (SMD) as an institutional  
research award to the Center/JPL

<http://npp.usra.edu>

## General Requirements

Candidates must have completed all requirements of  
their PhD (must be within 5 years)

Postdoc appointments are full-time and research  
must be conducted at JPL

Specific to foreign students (at foreign institutions)

## JVSRP – JPL Visiting Student Research Program

Requires students securing funding from  
their government, institution and/or other  
sources

Requires invitation from JPL researcher  
serving as host of internship

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/intern/apply/>

(or just Google “JPL internships”)

## NASA Education Office Programs for foreign students

Applicable to students of countries with  
whom NASA has stipulated an agreement

<https://intern.nasa.gov/non-us-opportunities/index.html>

*GRAZIE PER L'ATTENZIONE!*

